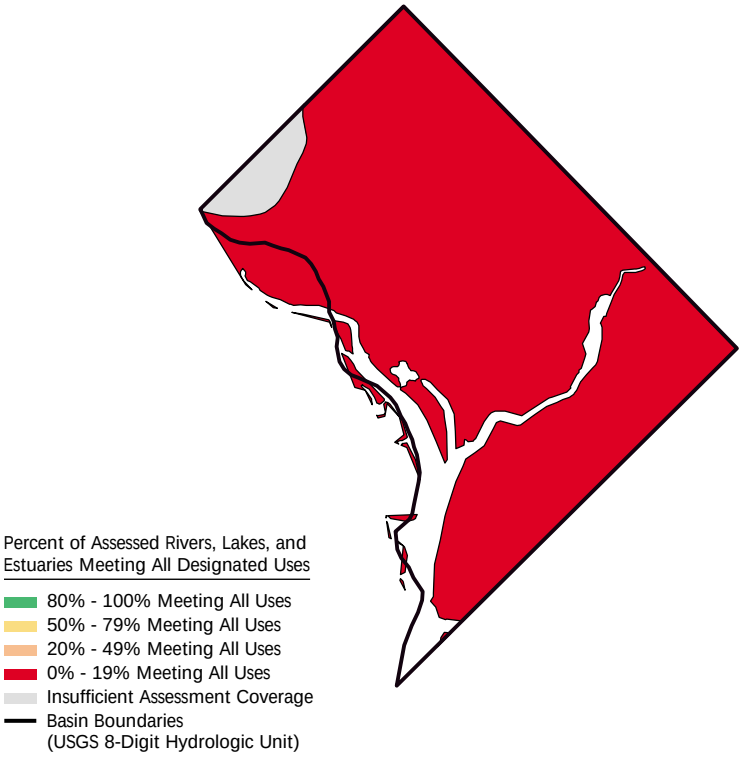
# District of Columbia




For a copy of the District of Columbia 1998 305(b) report, contact:

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## Surface Water Quality

Water quality in the District of Columbia continues to be impaired. Each of the waterbodies monitored was impaired for one or more of its designated uses. The uses that relate directly to human use of the waterbodies were generally not supported, while those uses that directly affected the quality of habitat for aquatic life were at least partially supported. For example, the Anacostia River remains aesthetically and chemically polluted. However, the pollution is at a level that supports fish and other wildlife. Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) is found in the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, with the Potomac supporting a diverse groups of SAV species. The Potomac River continues to benefit from improvements at the city's wastewater treatment plant and combined sewer overflow system improvements.

Major causes of impairment common to the District's waterbodies are organic enrichment and pathogens. The sources of impairment with major impacts are combined sewer overflows, urban runoff/storm sewers, and municipal point sources. These sources are associated with the land uses common in an urban area.

The District of Columbia did not report on the condition of wetlands.

## Ground Water Quality

The drinking water source for the District of Columbia is surface water. The intake is located in the Potomac River north of the city's boundary. Consequently, ground water is not monitored on a regular, intensive basis. However, compliance monitoring data are scrutinized for ground water related information whenever it is available.

## Programs to Restore Water Quality

The District's water quality programs are involved in the process of identifying and evaluating CSO control methods; the initiation of the TMDL process; the identification and support of projects to control stormwater runoff; and cleanups of trash and debris. Efforts to restore the ground water quality include underground storage tanks, pesticide certification, and enforcement programs.

## Programs to Assess Water Quality

The District performs monthly physical and chemical sampling at 56 fixed stations on the Potomac and Anacostia rivers and their tributaries. At each water chemistry station, four samples a year are collected for heavy metals analysis. Biological monitoring is also implemented in the District's tributaries. Twenty-seven sites are sampled at least once every 2 years for biological, fish, morphological, and water quality parameters.

## Individual Use Support in the District of Columbia

| Designated Use[a] | Total Miles Assessed | Percent Good (Fully Supporting) | Percent Good (Threatened) | Percent Fair (Partially Supporting) | Percent Poor (Not Supporting) | Percent Not Attainable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 39)[b]** | | | | | | |
| | 38.4 | 0 | 0 | 44 | 56 | - |
| | 24.3 | 0 | 0 | | 100 | - |
| | 27.7 | 0 | 0 | | 100 | - |
| **Lakes (Total Acres = 238)** | | | | | | |
| | 238 | 57 | 0 | 0 | 43 | 0 |
| | 238 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| | 238 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| **Estuaries (Total Square Miles = 6)** | | | | | | |
| | 6 | 58 | 0 | 42 | 0 | - |
| | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | - |

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

[a] A subset of District of Columbia's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the District's 305(b) report for a full description of the District's uses.

[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.